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Title: Book II

Author: Isk

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This had caused Magincia to take a negative stance towards the Regency and Huma Dragonbane in particular. After warning the Allies of the dangers which they will face with an attack on Serpent's Hold the Humanis wished Baeleron the best of luck and made preparations for the worst by fortifying its position and making secret political contact with Sanctus.

Meanwhile rumors on the side of the Alliance cast doubt on Cloudster's tolerance for Magincia as he had hoped they would join in the war as allies to B-H. Cloudster's disgust on the matter stemmed from a recent duel he had lost to Beleth and was inflamed by a conversation he overheard in which the elf Isilmea stated Humanis wished to ally with the Regency. The Magincians having heard of this immediately called for a meeting with the Alliance to explain their stance in the open to them as all knew that Cloudster held much sway over the Brotherhood of the Hand. In the end it was agreed to remain allies and to not keep secrets from each other.

In the lands of the Regency the word of an invasion on Serpent's Hold stuck hard. Rumors got out of hand and

eventually most believed that the Allies would hit two cities at once, Serpent's Hold and Vesper which was run by a loose confederation of guilds at the time and would have provided only mild resistance without allies. Huma seeing that the situation was out of hand and not willing to seek allies with Sanctus, due to rumor that Sanctus was the power behind the Regency, decided to call upon old friends to help in the upcoming battle and thus the forces of the Regency consisted of: The Britannian Guard, Runic Knights, House of the Gauntlet, Guardians of Sosaria, Clan Moor, Lost Order of Akalabeth, Moonglow Town Council, Knights of Sosaria, Divine Awakening Guardians of Vesper, and the Saints of the True Covenant. Feeling confident in the forces of the regency Dealthagar, leader of the Divine Awakening was presented a map of Serpent's Hold and outlined the defenses of the city. Later that day a member of the Divine Awakening and known vampire said the following speech to the Regency Forces:

"The time draws near as war is eminent. Many a good soldier will lose their lives fighting for a cause they believe is justified. Some will charge gallantly with lances drawn and shields held tight, others will stand against the cavalry's might. I see a wounded soldier who will be mortally wounded yet continue to fight on with

desperation in his eyes."

"War is where the unknown become heroes and the villains are forever marked with scorn. The Enemy believes the Regency is weak, decaying and dying. Let them say that to the soldiers who take to the field, let them say that to the mages who will both destroy and mend, let them just try and shout that to the leaders who have stood triumphant against tyranny, oppression and persecution in the past."

"You will take to the battlefield once more.

Though it may seem like it is an ill fated attempt to resist, you have the finest gift given to any man or woman who has ever stood their ground in battles past. You stand there with your right to freedoms that your enemy does not understand. You, are defenders of the virtues and your homes are truly blessed. Fortune shines down upon you my friends. May your blades hit true and the pain be bearable. Strike your foe down with zeal and honor....And when you have won the day, we will stand together on the walls of our cities and shout back to the enemy chants of our victory."

"It is there that the fallen heroes will be sought and remembered with the greatest of honors. Be brave, be true and most of all, never give up"